

'thirties and later, when he was Professor of Zoology at Cambridge, with the growth and flowering of the school of experimental biology which has spread all over the world. To one of the fortunate ones who has seen the impact of the life's work of Professor Gray and his colleagues and pupils, it seems impertinent to make more than factual statements in drawing attention to this book, which represents so well their achievement.

ADRIAN HORRIDGE

EVOLUTION

Howells, William. (Editor). *Ideas on Human Evolution: Selected Essays 1949-1961*. Cambridge, Mass., 1962. Harvard University Press. (London, Oxford University Press). Pp. xiii + 555. Price 80s.

THIS IS ONE of those books which it is impossible for one person to review in the true sense of that word: one can only indicate its content and recommend it to the reader.

The Editor defines the aim of the book as being to present "ideas, not data, views and thoughts rather than facts"—lines of thought, valid at the time of first publication and largely acceptable now—for many long-established "facts" have in the end turned out to have been based on misinterpretation of fossil evidence or even, as in one famous instance, on apparently deliberate fraud.

Apart from the obvious aim of presenting a selection of articles by leading writers reflecting various points of view on human evolution in its historical aspects, the Editor has been at pains to concentrate on papers which, although already published, are not readily available to students. The converse also applies—relevant material which is easily accessible has been omitted.

Each essay shows at its start the date on which it was first published, and a footnote gives an acknowledgment of its source, a brief indication of the argument, and the status of the writer. There are twenty-six authors, some being collaborators and others contributing more than one of the twenty-eight papers.

In the first essay G. G. Simpson reviews "certain main points of the modern synthetic theory of evolution"; Th. Dobzhansky writes on

the mechanism of natural selection in *Drosophila*, after which several authors discuss fossil and living primates and we then come to the timing and manner of the emergence of hominids, to anatomical—mostly mandible—comparisons, to stone tool making and to man. In the final chapter, J. S. Weiner, gives "a final opinion of the relations of modern man to fossil forms, taking account of certain views of the nature of species."

There is no index, but the individual lists of references have been consolidated into a twenty-three-page bibliography which could hardly be more comprehensive, ranging as it does from the works of Darwin and Huxley to those of present day authorities.

K. H.

FERTILITY

Yaukey, David. *Fertility Differences in a Modernising Country: A Survey of Lebanese Couples*. Princeton, New Jersey, 1961. Princeton University Press. (London, 1962. Oxford University Press). Pp. xviii + 204. Price 32s.

THIS BOOK REPRESENTS an attempt to fill a gap in our knowledge of the demographic changes which accompany industrialization and modernization.

In the Lebanon (where industrialization is proceeding rapidly) fertility has been falling and the author has investigated how the fall has been achieved, paying particular regard to the social characteristics of the population and to the involuntary and voluntary factors which might affect fertility. Data have been obtained as a result of detailed interviews of more than nine hundred Lebanese women. The questions were designed to elicit the general background including the religious affiliation of the respondent. "Voluntary" determinants of fertility are defined as including the various methods of birth control adopted, while "involuntary" determinants include fecundity, age at marriage of the women, prolonged separation from husband, frequency of intercourse and length of the lactation period.

Social background for the purpose of the study was determined in terms of the level of education, and there were three main classes: village dwellers, who were presumed to be uneducated; uneducated city dwellers; educated city dwellers.

These groups were further sub-divided by religious affiliation. Religion is very important in the Lebanon as every Lebanese identifies himself with some religious group. Christians appear to outnumber Moslems, the Christians themselves being a heterogeneous community composed of Roman Catholics and a number of Protestant sects. Paucity of registration data has obliged the author to use as a measure of fertility a hypothetical total rate obtained from marriage duration fertility rates regardless of the age of women at marriage. This measure neglects differences in age at marriage and presupposes that the current fertility rates of women at various durations of marriage are applicable to the women who currently have not completed their child-bearing.

The picture that has emerged from the inquiry is that involuntary factors are of little significance and existing fertility differences seem to be mainly the result of differences in the degree of resort to birth control. Religious identification appears to have influenced the rate at which ideas regarding the adoption of birth control practices have been received and the rapidity of the transition from high fertility to low. Isolated villages, whether Christian or Moslem, appear to be oblivious of birth control methods. Fertility here has remained high. In the cities, however, educated Christians seem to have resorted to birth control first, followed by the uneducated. But Moslems have lagged behind and their fertility rates have been appreciably higher.

The book is divided into a first part of eight chapters, dealing with the methods adopted and the results obtained, and a second part, consisting of lengthy appendices and dealing mainly with technical matters. The author has made effective use of the sample data and the work is a valuable addition to the literature on fertility in under-developed countries. A defect is that many of the fertility rates relating to groups with specialized characteristics have been based on relatively few observations, with the result that some of the reported differences may be of questionable significance. The author however has been aware of the hazards involved and has counselled caution by reporting the numbers of cases on which the rates have been based.

Evidently the data have been collected under very difficult circumstances and it is perhaps surprising that the rates have not been of even more questionable significance than they are.

The study should acquire an even greater value when the results are published of a parallel investigation by Dr. Hanna Rizk among Egyptian women.

C. J. THOMAS

LITERARY CENSORSHIP

Craig, Alec. *The Banned Books of England and Other Countries*. London, 1962. Allen and Unwin. Pp. 244. Price 30s.

MR. CRAIG IS the acknowledged British authority on the censorship and banning of books, and a reviewer without his specialist knowledge can only take for granted the accuracy of a book such as this. Comment, therefore, must be limited to an estimate of its utility, interest and literary merit.

As to utility, there can be no doubt. To have, in a single handy volume, a historical account of the control of books by both church and state, summaries of the tribulations (and, in some cases literally, the trials) of authors both famous and infamous, brief statements of Customs regulations and procedures, a description and an appraisal of the 1959 Obscene Publications Act, and an outline of the position in the Commonwealth and the U.S.A. and France, is a boon to anyone concerned with intellectual and artistic freedom.

As to interest, the book is fascinating from beginning to end. That the *Index Librorum Prohibitorum* should in the twentieth century forbid Roman Catholic laymen throughout the world to read or possess, without special permission, some four thousand books including Gibbon's *Decline and Fall*, Mill's *Political Economy*, Pascal's *Pensées*, all the works of Hume and all the novels of Balzac and Stendhal and Zola, is an astonishing commentary on that Church's frequent criticism of the lack of freedom in communist countries. That, as recently as 1922, a man was gaoled for nine months for publishing pamphlets held to be blasphemous is a reminder that the battle for religious freedom is not yet won even in Britain. That the British